



## Memo

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To: Park Board  
From: Park and Recreation Staff  
Date: December 10, 2013  
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for November and early December for your review.

1. Director's report from Ben Wagner:
  - a. *Goals* - Department heads have been meeting with the Mayor and Matt Caldwell, Director of Operations and Finance, to review progress towards 2013 goals and set goals for 2014. I will be meeting with Matt and the Mayor on 12/10 and will share the draft 2014 goals at our Park Board. I welcome your input as we look ahead to 2014.
  - b. *Hamilton Center* - Hamilton Center roof is nearing completion. Recent weather has slowed progress but the majority of the work will be complete this month with "final touches" being completed Q1 of 2014. Private fundraising efforts are progressing very well and we look forward to this very important restoration and asset preservation. Projects funded with private dollars will take place in 2014 with a majority of them being completed during the May/June timeframe. We are very grateful to all of the donors who have unselfishly contributed. Jim Henderson and I will be giving a tour to the Mayor soon.
  - c. *Donner Center* - Taylor Brothers has completed a preliminary scope of work and estimates for the roof system repair at Donner Center. David Doup will be present at Park Board to discuss the scope of work and answer any questions that arise. We are looking at a construction timeline that will reach completion by June.
  - d. *Noblitt Park Master Plan* - Representatives from Blue Marble Design presented preliminary design options to our management staff last week for Noblitt Park and the newly acquired property south of Noblitt. The next step will be to present to stakeholders such as the Mayor, City Council and Park Board to gather input.
  - e. *Mill Race Amphitheater RFQs* - Seven firms submitted qualifications packages for the Mill Race Amphitheater and Festival Area Redesign. The Amphitheater Committee met and selected several of those firms to receive RFPs (Request For Proposals). Those RFPs should go out this month. Depending on scope and funding, the committee would like to see construction in Q3 of 2014.
  - f. *Christmas Village in the Commons* - Even though the parade was cancelled due to the cold the show went on at the Commons! The Christmas Village on Saturday, 12/7, was a great success. A big thank you to everyone who worked hard to prepare it and pull it off in great form.
  - g. *Trees and Snow* - A **Big Thank You to all of our Staff** who helped set up the Christmas Trees at City Hall and the Commons. I can tell you it is a big job and I appreciate everyone's efforts. Thanks also to our team for the great work with snow removal. Many early and late hours have been put in to keep our facilities open and safe.
2. Kathy McPeck reported the following for Recreation/Events and Administration:  
*Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastic Center:*
  - a. Open gym attendance for November was:
    - Pre-school (including MOMS Club & MOPS program): 700

- Family open gym (Thursday & Saturday sessions): 151
- Ages 7-up: 56

All Open Gym numbers increased from October with Pre-school open gym numbers up by almost 100 kids, MOMS Club open gyms up by 16 kids and the MOPS group up by 17 kids!

- The FFY teens visited on Nov. 1 from 4:00-5:00pm. Approximately 10 teens attended.
- The Nov. 22 Friday Family Open Gym had 42 children and parents attend. Our next Friday evening Family Open Gym is scheduled for Dec. 13 from 6:30-8pm. Cost is \$3 per child and parent supervision/participation is required.
- All available birthday party times are rented for the month of December!
- Shea Fox, a Columbus North High School Senior did his senior project at the Gymnastics Center on Nov. 8, 15 and 22<sup>nd</sup>. He led a group of children from the Boys & Girls' Club through a progressive circuit type fitness program.
- Columbus Power Elite All-Stars Cheer Squad has begun their competitive season. They had a competition on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and attended another on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Gymnastics Center will be closed for the Christmas holiday/winter break from Dec. 20-Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Our *Active Artists!* program attracted approximately 18 children in November. Approximately 20 children attended the December 5<sup>th</sup> session of *Active Artists!* which featured Christmas crafts and treats.
- Registration for Winter Session 1 was 201 children! This is an increase of approximately 48% from last year. We had 138 children enrolled in Winter 1 session of 2012. Our Winter Session 2 will begin on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Several people have registered for this session already!
- Interviews have started for our receptionist/lead secretary position at the Gymnastics Center/FFY. Angie Fox left us on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> to take a position with SIHO. We wish Angie well in her new position and we will definitely miss her!

#### *Recreation – Events/Program/Teens:*

- The 16th annual *Mom & Me for Tea* was held on Sunday, Dec. 8th at Donner Center. The event had a full registration of 33 girls. Approximately 75 attended with moms, daughters and several grandmothers accompanying their granddaughters! A good time was had by all!
- Little Chefs - Sweet Christmas Treats* for ages 5-8 will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 10th from 4:30-5:45pm. The children will learn how to make a variety of fun to make and eat Christmas treats! The class will be instructed by our own Tonia Medaris.
- Teen Council is planning their next event, *Cookies & Canvas* on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 1:00-3:00pm.
- The Nov. 23 scrapbooking event attracted over 20 to Donner Center to scrapbook all day!
- The annual Santa's Workshop will be held on Friday, Dec. 13 from 6:30-8pm at Donner Center. Adzooks Puppets will present the show *Dennis the Elf Bakes A Gingerbread Cookie* at 6:30pm. After the show we'll have Christmas crafts, games, prizes and surprises! Cost is \$1 per person and all children must be accompanied by an adult.
- The After Prom committee held their first planning meeting on Dec. 3 for the 2014 After Prom Party. A theme was chosen and committee members discussed new ideas for the event. The After Prom Party will be held on Sunday, May 4 at Foundation for Youth.

### 3. Mark Jones reported the following for the Sports and Athletic Facility Team:

#### *Programs/Tournaments:*

- Adult Winter Volleyball registration started.
- Plans are underway to do preventive maintenance/repairs to all the Batting Cage machines this winter.
- Working on Fun Guide for 2013-14.
- Continue to finalize 2014 tournament schedule.
- Prep work continues for 2014 season.

#### *Athletic Facilities:*

- a. All facilities have been winterized.
- b. Spring prep work continues.
- c. Hamilton Center Christmas lights/decorations are up and the facility is looking great.
- d. **AWARD:** Lincoln Park was named Independent Softball Association's (ISA) National Complex of the year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year.
- e. Projects:
  - Hamilton Center Roof is going strong and looking great. Weather and material delay has caused the completion of the roof project to be pushed back.
  - Hamilton Center Fundraising Project is picking up steam and we are looking to begin work on a number of different items in the near future. Fundraising group has hired Taylor Bros to help oversee projects. David Doup will be the Construction Manager.
  - Dick Wigh Soccer Complex Restroom project has started and is going well
- f. Indiana has formed a State Chapter under STMA (Sports Turf Managers Assoc.) and Columbus Parks & Recreation will be heavily involved.

#### *Hamilton Center:*

- a. November was a good month for us. We have had a few birthday parties, with approximately 90 children in attendance. Patio rentals have been increasing with meetings, birthday parties, wedding showers, and baby showers using the space! We seem to be getting many calls for weddings this spring and summer!
  - b. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> we had Try Hockey for Free day, and 31 kids showed up to participate. The Icemen team came and assisted with the skills portion. It was a good day!
  - c. Broomball is in high gear with nine teams participating. Broomball continues to grow every year.
  - d. The 2013-14 season is underway for LCSC and CYH and the rink is busier than ever.
  - e. Our Monday night adult hockey league continues this month as well.
  - f. Thank you to all that participated in the Hamilton Center Turkey Trot! We had 110 people participate and collected \$615 for the Chuck Wilt Scholarship Fund! Use this link to view pictures from the event!  
<https://plus.google.com/photos/112153059337959237728/albums/5951917542501186529>
  - g. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, Hamilton hosted a 3 on 3 tourney for all ages. The turn-out was bigger than last year with a total of 60 participants. Everyone had a great time as usual!
  - h. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Hamilton hosted a Skate with Santa Day, with approximately 100 participants, Santa skated with the children and crafts were done on the patio. This event was a HUGE success. As always, customers wanted to make sure to tell us they love this event and want to make sure we do it again next year.
  - i. Our group classes are winding down and sign-ups will begin soon for the winter session which begins in January. This year has turned out to be a much bigger year than we anticipated and we are hoping for an even bigger turn out next year!
  - j. LCSC had 27 girls and boys who competed at the Indiana State Figure Skating Championship in Fort Wayne in November. The skaters all did very well with many placing in the top three!
4. Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:
- a. The Maintenance Crew finished winterizing all the water lines in the Parks. They also helped with preparing snow equipment.
  - b. The Cleaning Crew started preparing the parks for winter by helping with restroom and shelter prep.
  - c. The Grounds Crew did a lot of leaf removal and mowing. They also started cutting back the perennial beds.
  - d. The Donner Crew provided customer service for several rentals and parties during the month.
  - e. The FFY Crew worked with several vendors to finish some Capital improvement projects.
  - f. The Commons staff had several rentals. They are also looking forward to a very busy December rental schedule.

5. April Williams' report for Project, Resource Development follows on the next page:

c: Mayor Kristen Brown  
Councilman Dascal Bunch  
Jeff Logston  
Parks & Recreation FT Employees

## Project/Resource Development Update December, 2013

### Current projects:

- Continue working with the Hamilton Center Project Campaign Committee. 90% of the fundraising goal has been raised, to date. A big thanks to Jim Henderson and Eric Neal. Project planning with David Doup and Steve Risting to create timeline for projects is now taking place. Working with Chuck Wilt to solidify donation for patio enhancements. Submitted the Visitor's Center grant request for \$25,000.00 toward the project.
- Continue to attend the Arts District Coalition Team Meetings as a committee member of the Urban Infrastructure Team and the Program Planning Team. It has been proposed that the downtown trail portion from Lafayette to Jonathan Moore Pike be considered a project for "urban development" due to the economic benefits of this connection.
- Continue to work with AmeriCorps member to make progress in creating an "Adopt a Trail" project to assist with volunteer coordination toward maintenance of our People Trails. Dick Boyce and I met with Brad Stroia from Cummins to discuss coordination of "Race2play Volunteer Program" that will offer, at minimum, annual neighborhood and park clean-ups.
- Coordinated thank-you luncheon with Cummins volunteers and Tony Stewart's family at the Fuel Systems plant.
- Planning Meeting for the Park Foundation went exceptionally well. All Board Members were in attendance and three new board members joined: Brad Stroia, Vicki Griffin and Victoria Glick. The Park Foundation is pleased to have raised over \$2.5 million dollars in private funding to contribute toward City Capital Projects.
- Planning of the First Christmas Village at the Commons came to fruition on December 7<sup>th</sup> and was well attended despite the cancellation of the Festival of Lights Parade. Families participated in many activities offered by Parks & Rec/The Commons, BCSC Foundation, kidscommons, and FFY. Several vendors set up to offer bakery items and handcrafted gifts. This event was free to the community. Parks and Recreation led this effort by way of my and Shanda Sasse's planning involvement and our partnership with Sweet Rose Bakery and BCSC Foundation to offer a "Gingerbread Village" experience for children. Ahlemeyer's Bakery and Ashlynn Leigh Cakes (ALC) provided icing for cookies and ALC built the Mayor's City Hall. Ben and Erin Wagner built the gingerbread house entrance. Thanks to Rose Johnson, Keenan Spencer and Debbie Lindauer for managing P&R activities during the event and Jillian Keller who assisted me with set up. Thanks to the Schumaker's for bringing their nostalgic Coke truck. All performers provided their talents free of charge. The Mayor stated she would like to see this become an annual event.
- Continue to meet with invested parties interested in furthering Race2play.
  - Chris Jensen and Deborah Wezensky from the Governor's Bicentennial Project visited Columbus to view the Park Foundation's/Park's & Rec's Race2play project. They were so impressed with the project that they included their visit in their newsletter (see attached). They encouraged us to submit the project as one of the endorsed projects leading up to the Bicentennial Celebration in 2016. I will be submitting an application.
  - Mark Becker from the Bicentennial Trust visited Columbus to discuss potential projects funded by the Bicentennial Trust Fund. Ben and I took Mark on a tour of two potential projects. Mark liked both projects and encouraged us to pursue the application for funding due by the first of the year.
- ***Attended the CAMPO Board Meeting to seek approval for MPO dollars assisting in helping to fund the Clifty Creek/McKinley Trail project.*** As previously discussed, we received confirmation of the Recreation Trails – DNR grant approval for the Clifty Creek People Trail expansion. This is a \$150,000.00 grant approval. It's an 80/20 match. The Park Foundation will fund the 20%. Total project cost is estimated at \$247,122.00.

- We also requested MPO dollars assistance in funding the Downtown Trail Connection from Lafayette, behind the old Senior Center, to the existing trail under 3<sup>rd</sup> Street bridge to Mill Race. This would benefit the community by bringing residents from every direction of the City to the downtown area. It would also provide connection between Cummins facilities (an investor in the People Trail Expansion Campaign), and it would continue the Hawcreek Trail along Central from State Street to Lafayette. Additionally, this entire connection (State St to Jonathan Moore Pike) can encourage future development in the vacant properties along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and the previous senior center location.
- Creation of the annual Park Foundation newsletter to encourage continued public/private partnerships to maintain and grow our Park amenities, as well as thank those generous investors in our Parks & Rec. assets, is being finalized and set to be mailed out by mid-December.

Thank you for your service!

April Williams